



# City Update

News and Information for City of Saint Paul Employees

March 12, 1999

## *Inside This Issue*

**Penn and Nicholson Visit City Hall**

**City Update Available via Web**

**Sweeney Joins PED**

**Planting Volunteers Needed**

**150 Trivia**

### **Mayor**

Norm Coleman

### **Council Members**

Jerry Blakey

Christopher Coleman

Michael Harris

Jay Benanav

Jim Reiter

Dan Bostrom

Kathy Lantry



*Mayor Coleman met with the First Lady of Tanzania, Ms. Anna Mkapa, Monday, February 22, to talk about initiatives in improving the education system in Tanzania.*

## **Celebrity Faces in Saint Paul**

As many of you may have heard, a few Twin Cities locations had a couple of surprise guests Wednesday, February 24. Jack Nicholson and Sean Penn slipped into City Hall and snuck a peak at the Peace Memorial Statue in Memorial Hall and the concourse as they researched Twin Cities architecture. According to Leah Otto, Assistant Director of Marketing and Promotions/Film Liaison, "Penn's camera was on fire before he could even make it inside, while Nicholson appeared to be stopped in his tracks at the sight of the statue." The Minnesota Film Board asked that the visit be kept quiet. But, of course, as we all know it couldn't be kept a secret forever, the next day the press caught up with the two at a couple Twin Cities locations. "The beauty of our building (City Hall) was not lost on a producer accompanying Penn and Nicholson," said Otto. "Several questions were asked about the history and layout of the structure."

## **City Update Available on the Web**

Employees who have Internet access will now receive City Update online. Visit the City of Saint Paul home page ([www.stpaul.gov](http://www.stpaul.gov)) and click on the City Update link. The City Update can be viewed using Adobe Acrobat Reader Software, which may be downloaded for free.

We are currently working with each department to determine how many employees will be able to view the City Update on the Web. If you are still receiving a printed version and are able to access City Update via the Internet, please contact your payroll department to be removed from the distribution list. If you have Internet access but would like to see the update in paper form, it can be printed from the Web.

By converting to this process, the City will gradually reduce the number of copies printed and distributed, thus reducing paper. This is a sound environmental and economic goal that will benefit you and the City. Future capabilities of the online City Update will include an electronic index, direct links to related Web sites, built-in electronic forms and more.

*Saint Paul*  
Celebrating 150 Years

## Eye Exams and Your Health

In addition to checking your vision, an eye exam is a source of important health information. Medical problems such as hypertension, prediabetic and cholesterol changes, carotid artery disease, and even brain tumors can be detected in a routine exam, sometimes before any other symptoms emerge.

Your ophthalmologist can also diagnose migraines, many of which occur without headaches. Occasional blurring of vision and seeing isolated black spots, along with retinal abnormalities, can indicate a migraine. Interestingly, the first signs of multiple sclerosis are often observed during an eye exam, as the color of the optic nerve changes. An eye exam is recommended every two years after the age of 40.



## Cataract Awareness

Cataracts may form when there is a change in the chemical composition of the eye lens. The cause of the chemical change remains unknown. Degenerative changes that come with aging cause most of the cataracts in people over the age of 50. Cataracts may also be associated with diabetes, other systemic diseases, use of certain drugs, and eye injuries. Increased exposure to sunlight is believed to increase risk. Symptoms often develop gradually, but there are some proven warning signs:

- hazy, fuzzy, or blurred vision;
- the need for frequent changes in eyeglass prescriptions;
- changes in the color of the pupil which is usually black;
- increased difficulty with night vision, especially with driving at night.

Make an appointment with your eye doctor for an exam if any of these conditions arise.

Those diagnosed with cataracts have several treatment options available, from nonsurgical management, such as prescription glasses, to surgery. But if the cataract has progressed to the point where resulting vision problems interfere with your daily activities, or the cataract has become completely opaque, it must be surgically removed. Fortunately, cataract surgery is among the most successful operations performed today. More than 90 percent of those who have undergone this surgery enjoy improved vision.

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## Planting Volunteers Needed

Start warming up your shoveling muscles — the Greening Project's spring volunteer planting event will be held on from 9 am-1 pm, Saturday, May 1, 1999! Four hundred volunteers of all ages and abilities are needed that day to plant hundreds of native trees and shrubs in the Mississippi River valley near Swede Hollow Park in Saint Paul. Even if you have never planted a plant in your life, this is a great time to learn and to help the environment at the same time. Trained Planting Supervisors will be on hand to help out. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers. This is a great event for family, friends or organizations. The planting will take place RAIN OR SHINE so dress for the weather. If you have a shovel and gardening gloves bring them along. The planting will take place near Swede Hollow Park, east of downtown Saint Paul. Volunteers are also needed for setup, sign-in, lunch and cleanup. To volunteer you must preregister by April 15. Call the Greening Hotline at 651-224-9885 for more information or to register.



## Sweeney named interim director of PED

Brian Sweeney has been named interim director of the Department of Planning and Economic Development. Sweeney will fill the position vacated by Pam Wheelock, who resigned to become the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Finance. Prior to being named interim director, Sweeney was the director of strategic policy in the Mayor's Office.

"Brian has managed a government agency with 1,000 employees. He has worked with corporate management, and been a leader during challenging transitions in government and business," Mayor Coleman said. "He will lead our efforts to examine and explore new partnerships over the next few months, including looking at new relationships between the Port Authority and the Public Housing Administration."

Sweeney will serve as interim director for three to six months. The city will continue the search to find a permanent director.

Prior to joining the Mayor's Office, Sweeney held top management positions with the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Energy and, for more than a decade, he served as a management and planning consultant to a number of urban planning and downtown revitalization projects throughout the Midwest.

## Volunteers needed to join circle discussions

Each year the Wilder Foundation and others sponsor a series of forums on issues Saint Paul is facing. This year the topic is "Unleashing the Power of our Community: a Dialogue on Race, Connection, and Commitments."

As part of this program, the Cities at Work planning group is working with the Education and Housing Equity Project to organize a set of Community Circle Dialogues. The circles are small groups (8 - 15 people) who meet for two hours over five sessions. The program lasts about 2 months.

Each circle has a study guide and a facilitator, and will discuss education, housing, race, and segregation in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

Volunteers are needed to participate in the groups. The circles should be as diverse as possible. For more information contact Patricia James, 266-6639.

The Human Rights Department will also be hosting a circle discussing prejudice, racism, and discrimination in the areas of housing and education. For more information on this circle contact Angela Miller, 266-8965.

## *Employee Spotlight*

Jodi Ellwood has joined the Mayor's Office as Y2K Communications Coordinator. But the Millennium Bug won't be the only thing keeping Jodi busy since she has also been named the new editor of City Update.



"I am impressed with the focused and comprehensive planning effort Saint Paul has undertaken in preparing for the Year 2000," Jodi said. "There is a wealth of information on what cities, businesses and individuals can do to prepare for Y2K. We have an excellent opportunity to position Saint Paul as a resource for Y2K planning and build a stronger, more prepared community through these efforts."

Prior to joining the Mayor's Office, Jodi was a senior account executive at Shandwick International. She also served as media director for the Minnesota House of Representatives Republican Caucus and worked as a communications coordinator with the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development.

Anyone with story ideas, employee spotlight recommendations or calendar events should contact Jodi at 651/266-8528 or [city.update@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:city.update@ci.stpaul.mn.us).



## Saint Paul Branch Library Temporarily Closing

On Monday, March 15, Sun Ray Branch Library, 2105 Wilson Avenue, will be closed for six weeks up to two months to remodel the facility. The Book Drop will also be closed until construction is completed. Signs have been posted in the library to alert regular users of the closing.

Construction crews will be replacing the poured concrete desks, wiring for Internet stations, replacing old carpet and moving the reference desk to a more central and accessible location. This work is part of the Saint Paul Public Library's commitment to upgrade and modernize its facilities. These changes will bring this 1970's building into the 21st century as well as increase services and resources to the neighborhood.

Alternatives for this branch may be Hayden Heights Branch, 1456 White Bear Avenue, and Arlington Hills Branch, 1105 Greenbrier Street. Call 651-266-7000 for the names and addresses of all agencies in the Saint Paul library system.

### *City Update*

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*City Update* is a bi-weekly newsletter for City employees published by the Citizen Service Office of the City of Saint Paul. Submission deadline is noon on Tuesday, one week before payday. Call 266-8680 for information or for a calendar.

## *Pioneer Party Calendar*

The City is celebrating its sesquicentennial by having 150 Pioneer Parties throughout 1999. Dates and locations of Pioneer Parties will be announced on the City's web page, [www.stpaul.gov/activities/stpaul150](http://www.stpaul.gov/activities/stpaul150), Pioneer Press Express section, on KS95, and on KSTP AM 1500.

Join in Saint Paul's 150th birthday celebration. Stop by these upcoming parties:

**Sat., Mar. 13**  
**O'Gara's**  
**w/ Martin Zellar**



## 150 Trivia

Each week a trivia question about the history of Saint Paul will appear in the Update with answers appearing in the following issue.

### **March 13 issue's trivia question:**

**Q: Who was the target of an assassination attempt in 1884 in Saint Paul's Grand Opera House?**

**Last issue's trivia question (February 26)**

**Q: When did the first automobile appear on the streets of Saint Paul?**

**A: 1897. It was a buggy with a motor underneath, used for advertising by the cigar department of Noyes Bros. & Cutler.**

## Job Openings as of March 12, 1999

Application Deadline	Title	Bi-weekly or Hourly Salary Rate	Exam Date
04/10/99	**Golf Ranger (seasonal par t-time)	\$6.01 per hr	04/10/99
Open	House Custodian I (part-time)	\$7.00 per hr	TBN
Open	Park Aide (seasonal par t-time)	\$6.88 per hr	Quals
04/10/99	**Refectory Attendant (seasonal par t-time)	\$8.41 per hr	04/10/99
Open	Ticket Sellers - —RiverCentre (par t-time)	\$5.50 per hr (in training)	TBN

**\*\*This is a walk-in-examination. Do not submit a job application before the test.**

Note: Call or visit the Office of Human Resources to receive the official job announcement for these positions. Location: 400 City Hall Annex. Phone: (651) 266-6500 (TTY/TDD (651) 266-6501). For jobs announced after March 4, please call our 24-hour job line, (651) 266-6502.